

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-12 are currently pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to clarify the present invention. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 6-8 and 10-12 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Applicant has amended claim 1 to address the Examiner's objection, and is now in condition for allowance.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 1-5 and 9 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-3, 6 and 11 of U.S. Patent No. 6,707,864. A Terminal Disclaimer is submitted herewith to overcome the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection. The withdrawal of the nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

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Application No.: 10/792,336

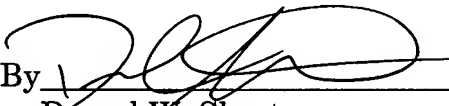
Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-12, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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